

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 AGR-20 FDRE-00 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 L-03 DRC-01 IO-13 H-03 SR-02 ORM-03 HEW-08

PC-04 HUD-02 DOTE-00 EUR-25 /169 W

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O R 061600Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7519

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KARACHI 1758

PASS AID FOR HANNAH

FROM PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, PK

SUBJECT: REPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT: PAKISTAN'S FLOOD

DISASTER: FLOOD DAMAGE AND THE EMERGENCY

RELIEF RESPONSE - PART TWO OF FOUR PARTS

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE ASSESSES THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY
THE PAKISTAN FLOOD AND DESCRIBES THE EMERGENCY RELIEF
RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE WORST FLOOD IN LIVING MEMORY -- WHICH IS ONLY NOW
AFTER THREE WEEKS SPENDING ITSELF IN THE INDUS DELTA NEAR
KARACHI, IS A MAJOR CATASTROPHE FOR PAKISTAN IN HUMAN,
PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC TERMS. THREE MILLION ACRES WERE
FLOODED. IN HUMAN TERMS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SIGNIFICANTLY
AFFECTED APPROACHES TEN MILLION. PERHAPS A THIRD OF THESE
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HAD THEIR HOMES WASHED AWAY. FORTUNATELY THE PHYSICAL

CONDITION OF THE POPULATION AFFECTED WAS REASONABLY GOOD AND MALNUTRITION AND DISEASE SO FAR ARE NOT IMPORTANT PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, AN ALREADY DIFFICULT MALARIA SITUATION HAS BEEN MADE WORSE. SOME 800,000 HOMES MUST BE REBUILT AND SCHOOL, HEALTH, WATER AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES MUST BE REPAIRED OR REPLACED IN MORE THAN 5,000 FLOODED VILLAGES.

2. IN PHYSICAL TERMS THE HARDEST LOSS IS IN CROP PRODUCTION. MAJOR PRIVATE WHEAT STOCKS -- ESTIMATED FROM 700,000 TO ONE MILLION TONS -- WERE DESTROYED. RICE WAS STILL IN THE GROUND AND PRODUCTION LOSSES WILL REACH SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS. THE COTTON CROP, PAKISTAN'S PRINCIPAL CASH AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER, WAS SEVERELY HIT, BOTH BY THE FLOODS AND HEAVY RAINS. AN ESTIMATE OF 800,000 BALES LOST SEEMS CONSERVATIVE. FURTHER LOSSES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WILL OCCUR DUE TO EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION CANAL DAMAGE, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY ASSESSED. DAMAGES INCLUDE SEVERAL HEADWORDS, 15 MAJOR CANALS, AND COUNTLESS MILES OF SECONDARY AND TERTIARY SYSTEMS WHERE AT LEAST 50 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF EARTH WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED TO BUILD EMBANKMENTS AND CLEAN OUT SILT. THE GOVERNMENT REPORTS 350 MILES OF FIRST CLASS ROADS BADLY DAMAGED INCLUDING FOUR HIGHWAY BRIDGES. ONE HUNDRED FIFTY BREACHES ARE REPORTED IN THE RAILWAY SYSTEM MANY OF WHICH I SAW MYSELF NEAR KHONPUR. OUR EXPERTS ARE STILL WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO REPAIR COMMUNICATIONS.

3. IN ECONOMIC TERMS, PAKISTAN'S PREVIOUSLY BRIGHT OUTLOOK -- ANTICIPATING EXCELLENT RICE AND COTTON CROPS AND RISING WORLD MARKET PRICES -- HAS SUFFERED A SEVERE SETBACK. THE LOSS OF COTTON AND RICE EXPORTS WILL COST PAKISTAN \$200 MILLION OR MORE. THE BUDGET HAS BEEN SEVERELY DISRUPTED BY THE LARGE LOSS OF REVENUE WHICH HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED ON EXPORTS, AS WELL AS BY THE NEED FOR LARGE RELIEF AND RECOVERY EXPENDITURES.

4. THE RELIEF RESPONSE: GREAT CREDIT GOES TO PAKISTAN'S GOVERNMENT FOR ITS REMARKABLE RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FLOOD CRISIS. THE COMMITMENT TO RESCUE, RELIEF AND IMMEDIATE REHABILITATION IS EXCEPTIONALLY OUTSTANDING. TOP POLITICAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, HAVE SPENT MOST OF THE PAST 20 DAYS IN THE FLOOD AREAS GIVING PERSONAL DIRECTION TO RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS. I OBSERVED THIS PERSONALLY IN THE MULTAN AREA WHERE THE FINANCE MINISTER HAD FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS BEEN DIRECTING RELIEF OPERATIONS. THE WORK OF THE PAKISTAN

ARMY IS UNIVERSALLY APPRECIATED.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE HAS BEEN ONLY FAIR AND SOME FLAGS, NOTABLY GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE USSR HAVE STILL TO COME FORWARD WITH SERIOUS RELIEF HELP. THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE URGING AND HELP OF THE AMERICAN MISSION, DEVELOPED A REPORTING SYSTEM WHICH KEEPS PAKISTAN'S NEEDS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. TOTAL RESPONSE SO FAR IS APPROACHING \$40 MILLION. THE UNITED STATES' EFFORTS EXCEEDS \$25 MILLION, OR ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF OUTSIDE RELIEF HELP.
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6. AMERICAN EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY APPRECIATED IN PAKISTAN AND HAVE RECEIVED WIDESPREAD POSITIVE COVERAGE IN PAKISTAN'S PRESS, RADIO AND TV. THE AMERICAN BOATS AND HELICOPTERS, WHICH ARRIVED PROMPTLY AND PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RESCUE AND FOOD SUPPLY OPERATIONS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS WHERE THE FLOODS HAVE REMAINED THE LONGEST NEAR RAHIMYAR KHAN AND SOUTH OF SUKKAR, WERE A DRAMATIC INDICATION OF AMERICAN CONCERN.

THE SPRAYING OF 600,000 ACRES OF RICE AND OTHER CROPS,
AND OUR VEGETABLE SEED PROGRAM, ARE DIRECTED TO AREAS OF
GREAT NEED AND APPRECIATION OF THESE EFFORTS REFLECTS THIS
FACT. THE FUEL AIRLIFT FROM KARACHI TO NORTHERN PAKISTAN,
WHICH WAS BEGUN WITH A CHARACTERISTICALLY QUICK START BY
OUR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, IS MEETING AN EMER-
GENCY REQUIREMENT. I BELIEVE THE EMERGENCY RELIEF PHASE IS
NOW COMING TO AN END AND THAT WE CAN TAKE CONSIDERABLE
SATISFACTION IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR HELP. THE GOVERN-
MENT IS NOW TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO SHORT AND LONGER TERM
REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY.

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